

UNCLASSIFIED

H47

ACTION EUR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-00 INL-00 PDI-00 DS-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00
INR-00 IO-00 DCP-00 PA-00 GIWI-00 BBG-00 IIP-00
DSCC-00 DRL-00 SAS-00 /000W

-----6905F2 051047Z /38

P 051009Z DEC 05

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0342

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 004282

FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/PAO, INR/R

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, BE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION CIA FLIGHTS;BRUSSELS

I. (CIA FLIGHTS) CIA FLIGHTS

1. FOREIGN EDITOR FRANK SCHLOEMER IN INDEPENDENT DE MORGEN (12/5) (CIRC.48,000) COMMENTS: "VIRTUALLY EVERY DAY THERE ARE NEW REPORTS THAT THE CIA CARRIES OUT SECRET FLIGHTS IN AND OVER EUROPE TO MOVE TERROR SUSPECTS TO EQUALLY SECRET LOCATIONS TO INTERROGATE AND DETAIN THEM THERE ILLEGALLY.. U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE IS ON HER WAY TO BERLIN AND A FEW OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES, BUT BEFORE HER DEPARTURE, SHE MADE IT CLEAR TO (CHANCELLOR) MERKEL THAT SHE SHOULD NOT EXPECT VERY MUCH AS FAR AS CLARIFICATION IS CONCERNED. ON THE CONTRARY, RICE SAID THAT SHE WOULD URGE EUROPE TO SHOW MORE RETICENCE AND REFRAIN FROM ASKING EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CIA'S OPERATIONS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM. ALL OF A SUDDEN, RETICENCE SEEMS TO BE A SYNONYM FOR CYNICISM THAT IS USED BY A SUPERPOWER THAT ACTS AS IT PLEASES EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD AND THAT CONSIDERS IT NORMAL THAT NO QUESTIONS ARE ASKED ABOUT THAT. IN THE U.S. VIEW, THE SO-CALLED STRUGGLE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM JUSTIFIES ALL THE MEANS. CLEARLY, THE UNITED STATES IS CULTIVATING ALLIES ONLY TO MISLEAD THEM RATHER THAN CONSIDERING THEM EQUAL PARTNERS."

2. CHIEF COMMENTATOR MAROUN LABAKI IN INDEPENDENT LE SOIR (12/5) (CIRC.102,000) EDITORIALIZES: "IT IS TRUE, RUNNING THE WORLD REQUIRES A FEW ARRANGEMENTS I.E. THE CHOICE FOR THE LESSER EVIL. HOWEVER, NOT EVERYTHING IS ALLOWED. DURING CONDOLEEZZA

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

RICE'S VISIT TO EUROPE THIS WEEK, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO CONCENTRATE ON THE (CIA) FLIGHTS, BECAUSE THE REAL SCANDAL IS THE VERY EXISTENCE OF SECRET CIA PRISONS. SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HAVE DESCRIBED

IBED
DETENTION CENTERS ON THE BASIS OF TESTIMONIES. COMPARED TO THEM, GUANTANAMO COULD ALMOST BE CONSIDERED A MODEL PRISON. IT IS TRUE, THE CIA'S 'PHANTOM PRISONERS' ARE NOT CHOIR BOYS. THEY ARE RADICAL MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS OFTEN INVOLVED IN LETHAL VIOLENCE. IT IS TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE AT WAR IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ. BUT, THE EUROPEANS MUST SAY IT TO THE AMERICANS: BARBARISM MUST NOT TRIGGER BARBARISM. 'NO' TO THE TOTALLY ILLEGAL SECRET PRISONS; 'NO' TO THE TORTURE THERE; 'NO' TO ALL THE DEGRADING TREATMENT THERE THAT DEGRADES DEMOCRACY AND CIVILIZATION WHEN IT IS APPLIED IN THEIR NAME."

II. MEDIA REACTION PREPARED BY GASTON DE WINTER (DUTCH)
AND PIERRE MANDERLIER (FRENCH). TEL. 32-2-
5082413.KOROLOGOS

S

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED